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ACTIVITIES OF THE ALBANIAN-SOVIET  
FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY

National Conference

A conference of branches of the Albanian-Soviet Friendship Society from all rreth<sup>3</sup> was held at Tirana 25 October-7 November 1953, to render annual accounts and plan the program for the coming year. Delegates from all friendship circles in production centers, institutes, and villages took part. Resolutions were passed to promote friendship with the USSR and knowledge of its methods, as well as to popularize its struggle for the building of Communism and defense of world peace.(1)

Branch Meetings

Branch meetings of the Albanian-Soviet Friendship Society are being held in Shkoder, Gjinokaster, Fier, Stalin Town, and Corovode. Successes have been reported in introducing Soviet agricultural and industrial methods. Some 145,000 persons in Fier alone have attended conferences and exhibitions to popularize these methods. The Gjinokaster Branch has 2,000 new members, the Stalin Town Branch has 3,700, and the Shkoder Branch has 6,000.(2)

Berat

Up to 30 July, the Berat Branch had held meetings in 77 production centers and villages to arrange celebrations of Friendship Month and to elect delegates to the Friendship Conference on 17 August 1953.(3)

Fier

The Fier Branch met recently to discuss a program of exhibitions and lectures to popularize Soviet methods. Ninety new members joined.(4)

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## Gjinokaster

The Gjinokaster Branch held its third rreth conference, attended by 250 delegates, in late August. To popularize Soviet methods, it has already organized 1,523 conferences, attended by 99,387 persons, and 717 exhibitions; has obtained many subscriptions to magazines; and has sold more than 2,690 books. About 200 persons have recently joined the branch.(5)

## Korce

The Korce Branch has organized many exhibitions on Soviet life, attended by 11,000 persons. Consultations on Soviet methods have been established in many villages. Friendship circles have gained 3,000 new members.(6)

There are 298 Albanian-Soviet Friendship circles in Korce Rreth, 25 having been established thus far in 1953.(7)

## Kukes

Since the Second Congress of the Friendship Society, the Kukes Branch has organized 1,256 political, cultural, and scientific conferences, attended by 79,210 persons; 751 agricultural conferences, attended by 45,575 persons; and 109 economic conferences, attended by 4,496 persons. The main purpose of these activities is to promote friendship with the USSR and use of Soviet methods. There are now 130 Friendship Circles in the rreth, with 7,600 members.(8)

## Lesh

The Lesh Branch held elections in early August 1953 in 35 villages and production centers. Leading exponents of Soviet methods were elected officers. The branch has also organized a number of lectures and exhibitions to spread knowledge of Soviet life and methods. About 650 members joined the society.(9)

## Lushnje

A recent meeting of the Lushnje Branch was attended by 6,557 members. They discussed Soviet agricultural methods. The branch recently organized 43 agricultural conferences in villages and collectives, attended by 1,780 peasants.(10)

About 700 new members have joined the Lushnje Branch.(11)

## Mirdite

The Mirdite Branch of the Albanian-Soviet Society organized 761 lectures and consultations in various villages and in the Rubik Copper Mine. They were attended by 13,229 persons. The branch also sent out 44 production exhibits and 200 photograph exhibitions illustrating Soviet life and methods. Altogether there are 52 Friendship Circles with 1,600 members.(9)

## Peshkopi

The Peshkopi Branch recently elected as new officers outstanding members of Friendship Circles or peasants who employ Soviet methods. There are about 200 circles and 51 new members. The branch is working to promote Soviet methods and knowledge of Soviet life.(12)

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Shkoder

So far the Shkoder Branch has arranged 270 conferences on Soviet methods, attended by 18,000 workers in production centers, and has organized 35 agricultural conferences and 3 cultural conferences, attended by 2,800 persons. I also has sent out 90 exhibitions showing USSR achievements. Ten mobile bookstores have sold peasants over 1,000 books and over 100 issues of the periodical Miqesia (Friendship).(7)

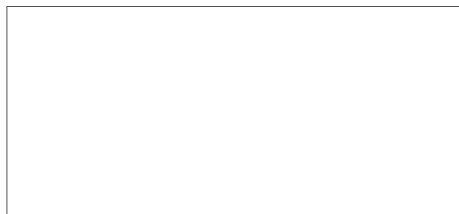
Tirana

The Tirana Branch is arranging lectures on Soviet methods to be given in Tirana production centers. To date, 5,007 new members have joined.(13)

The Tirana Branch has held 18 conferences on Soviet methods, attended by 200 workers. It has arranged conferences on Soviet methods at the Enver Works, the Misto Mame Carpentry Shop, the Stalin Textile Combine, the state footwear enterprises, and other production centers. About 5,000 workers now use these methods. Conferences have also been held on Soviet agricultural methods.(9)

SOURCES

1. Tirana, Zeri i Popullit, 13 Nov 53
2. Tirana, Bashkimi, 19 Aug 53
3. Zeri i Popullit, 7 Aug 53
4. Ibid., 18 Aug 53
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6. Bashkimi, 18 Aug 53
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